

The peculiarity, therefore, of its sternum, when taken with its tarsal scutellation and peculiar syrinx, seems to demand that, as has already been proposed by Garrod, the genus *Conopophaga*<sup>1</sup> should form a primary division of the Tracheophone Passeres, which may be defined as follows:—

*Conopophagidæ*.—Tracheophonine Passeres, with a holorhinal skull and four-notched sternum, an exaspidean tarsus, and a syrinx with no intrinsic muscles, and with the *sterno-tracheales* not attached to the *processus vocales*.

As regards the possession of a four-notched sternum by these birds and the Pteroptochidæ, I am not inclined to consider it in any way a primitive character, but rather as an instance of a simple modification having been independently acquired in different groups of birds (many parallel cases might be given). The Tracheophonine syrinx must, without doubt, be regarded as a modification of some Haploophonine form<sup>2</sup>; and in all these last birds, as in the still less specialized Eurylæmidæ, the sternum has the typical form with but two notches. On the other hand, the similarity of form of the sternum in the Pteroptochidæ and Conopophagidæ may very probably indicate that these groups may both have sprung from some common stock which had already developed a peculiar sternum.

#### 4. Note on the Generic Name *Hypherpes*.

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My attention having been called by a note in the 'Zoological Record' (xvi. *Aves*, p. 28) to the prior use in entomology, by the Baron Chaudoir (Bull. Mosc. 1838, p. 8), of the generic name *Hypherpes*, conferred by me some years ago (P. Z. S. 1863, p. 85) on a bird discovered in Madagascar by my brother, I beg leave to substitute for the latter the name *Hypositta*<sup>3</sup>, and hope that this curious form will henceforth be known as *Hypositta corallirostris*.

<sup>1</sup> *Corythopsis* has not yet been anatomically examined; by Sundevall it is placed near *Formicarius*. It is therefore nearly certain to be Tracheophonine, and is probably really closely allied to *Conopophaga*.

<sup>2</sup> Garrod, P. Z. S. 1876, p. 517.

<sup>3</sup> Th. ὑπὸ, *sub*; σίττη, *Sitta*.